

Abstract

An optical circulator with a first, second, third, and fourth port. The second and third port are disposed to receive polarized light entering the circulator as unpolarized light from the first port. The fourth port is disposed to receive unpolarized light entering the circulator as polarized light from the second and third port. The circulator comprises a beam-splitting and -combining element for separating and combining mutually orthogonal polarizations and a non-reciprocal polarization rotator. The circulator can be used to furnish light of a desired predetermined polarization for polarization-dependent devices.